



Who is infected with HIV but does not yet know?

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Overview

People who already have AIDS when HIV infection is diagnosed (or are diagnosed with AIDS within two months of HIV infection diagnosis) represent a population that may have first learned about their HIV infection late in the progression of HIV disease. Termed “concurrent diagnosis”, it is likely that people who are diagnosed with both HIV infection and AIDS within two months have been infected for more time prior to learning their HIV infection status than people who learn their status earlier in the course of infection. As such, the profile of people who are concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS provides an approximation of people who are infected but do not know it.

The largest differences in proportion of concurrent diagnoses are associated with place of birth and race/ethnicity. Thirty-eight percent of people born outside the US who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2001 and 2003 were also diagnosed with AIDS within two months, compared to 27% of people born in the US or in Puerto Rico or other US dependencies (countries that are supported and governed by the US). Thirty-five percent of black individuals were concurrently diagnosed compared to 28% of white and 29% of Hispanic individuals. Differences also exist by age category, with older individuals having higher proportions of concurrent HIV and AIDS diagnoses.

The following summary describes concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses in more depth.

General Statistics

- From 2001 to 2003, 811 people were diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS within two months of each other, representing 30% of the 2,690 diagnoses of HIV infection during this time period.

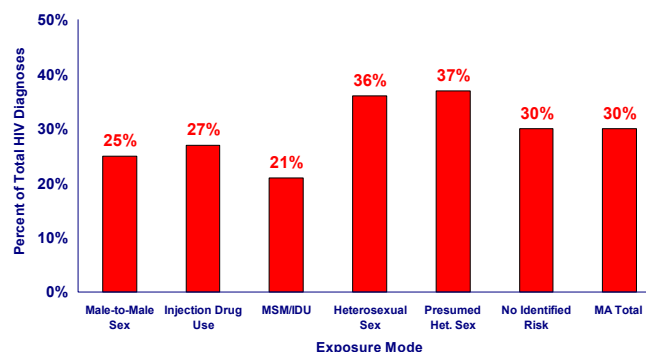
Concurrent Diagnoses by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection from 2001 to 2003, a slightly higher proportion of males than females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS (31% vs. 29%).
- Across race/ethnicity, black individuals diagnosed with HIV infection had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis at 35%, between 2001 and 2003.
- Twenty-eight percent of white individuals, 29% of Hispanic individuals, and 31% of Asian/Pacific Islanders with HIV infection were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS from 2001 to 2003.

Concurrent Diagnoses by Exposure Mode

- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection, people exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with partners with known risk for HIV or known HIV-positive status, as well as those exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with partners of unknown risk and HIV status (presumed heterosexual) have a higher proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses than people exposed through other modes.

Figure 1 Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Exposure Mode: MA, 2001-2003

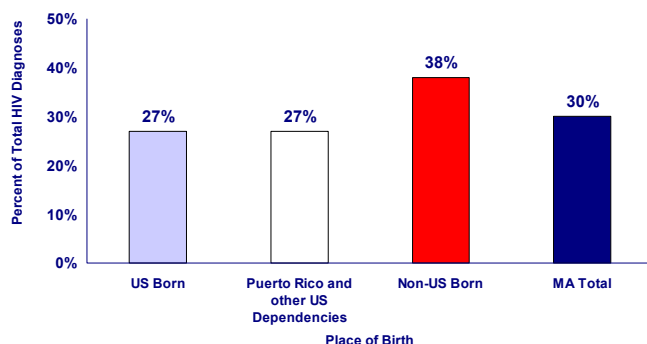


Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

Concurrent Diagnoses by Place of Birth

- Thirty-eight percent of people born outside the US who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2001 and 2003 were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS, compared to 27% of people born in the US or in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.

Figure 2 Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS within Two Months by Place of Birth: MA, 2001-2003

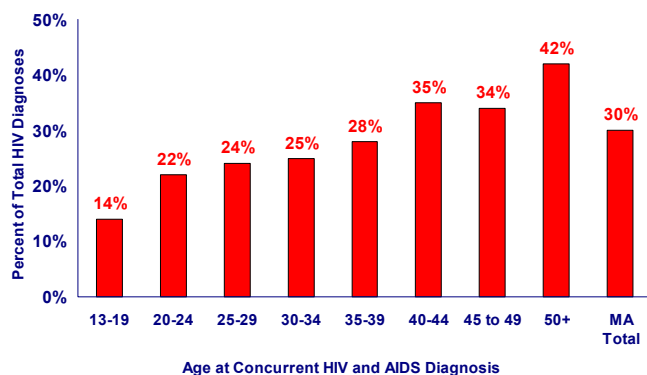


Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

Concurrent Diagnoses by Age Category

- Among age categories, people with HIV infection age 50 and above had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis from 2001 to 2003 at 42%.

Figure 3 Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Age at Concurrent HIV and AIDS Diagnosis: MA, 2001-2003



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

Concurrent Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Among all **males** diagnosed with HIV infection, 37% percent of black males were concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS from 2001 to 2003 compared to 28% of white males and 31% of Hispanic males.
- While caution should be used interpreting percentages derived from a numerator less than 10, the highest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis among **females** was among Asian/Pacific Islanders at 44% (N=7/16).
- Hispanic **females** with HIV infection had the lowest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis across race/ethnicity, at 25%.
- Among all **females** diagnosed with HIV infection, 27% percent of white and 33% of black females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS from 2001 to 2003.

Data Source:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, All Data as of 7/1/04

For more detailed information and a description of data limitations please see "HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts: An Epidemiologic Profile." For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix.